C45
7:13/11

Wildlife

IN NORTH CAROLINA

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE LIBRARY

TEN CENTS NOVEMBER 1949

Photo by Rod Amundson

EVERY FISHERMAN DREAMS . . .

. . . of catching a fish bigger than he is. This channel bass, or drum, was caught off Jennette's Ocean Pier, Nags Head, by Mrs. R. H. Alverson, of Winston-Salem. The young admirers are Freddy White (L) age 7 and Gill Ketron, 6, both of Richmond, Virginia. The fish weighed 40 pounds and was taller than a 7-year old boy.

Wildlife IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Official Publication of The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh

A monthly magazine devoted to the protection and restoration of our Wildlife Resources and to the improvement of hunting and fishing in North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

W. KERR SCOTT

Governor

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

FRANK T. ERWIN, Durham, Chairman

D. K. Sing, Charlotte, Vice-Chairman

R. Floyd Crause, Sparta

George W. Keesee, Gastonia

Earnest McGaugan, Lumber Bridge

G. E. Beal, Red Oak, Secretary

J. W. Moore, Hayesville

Robert Sadler, Bayboro

O. L. Woodhouse, Grandy

CLYDE P. PATTON

Executive Director

Administrative Assistant

Fish Division	Law Enforcement Division	Game Division	Education Division	Personnel and Finance Division	Engineering Division
		Hayden W. Olds, Chief	Rod Amundson, Chief	J. Thomas Williams, Chief	David R. Noland Chief

IN THIS ISSUE

November 1949 Vol. XIII, No. 11

CONTENTS

The Beaver
By Rod Amundson ..... Page 4

The Fish Population of High Point Lake
By Edward Hueske ..... Page 8

Outdoor Notes
By Austell Small ..... Page 11

Turn In Your Duck and Goose Bands!
By William Hamnett ..... Page 14

The Annual State 4-H Wildlife Camp
By Beba Gray Best and Seth W. Scott ..... Page 16

Get It Off Your Chest
By Win Donat ..... Page 18

Midgets of the Frog World
By Jack Dermid ..... Page 20

National Wildlife News ..... Page 21

Fox Hunters Miss Art's Finer Points (?)
By Ted Dealey ..... Page 22

The Life of a Game Commissioner
By Paul Thygeson Gilbert ..... Page 23

COVER

This month's cover is timed to coincide with the opening of the quail season on November 24. The picture is a reproduction of a water color by Win Donat.

★ ★ ★

Wildlife in North Carolina recognizes the need for close cooperation between State and Federal conservation agencies and the people who hunt and fish—to bring about a restoration of our renewable resources. The Editor gratefully receives for publication all news items, articles, photographs, and other material dealing with the various activities which combine to make North Carolina a better state for hunting and fishing. Full credit is given for all material published.

★ ★ ★

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Raleigh, North Carolina, Feb. 23, 1948, under the act of Aug. 23, 1912.

★ ★ ★

SUBSCRIPTIONS—Fifty cents per year, one dollar for two years. Make remittances payable to WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION. Any employee of the Wildlife Resources Commission may accept subscriptions, or they may be forwarded to Post Office Box 2919, Raleigh, North Carolina. Stamps cannot be accepted.

★ ★ ★

Because subscriptions to *Wildlife* are rolling in at the rate of more than 600 per month, it is impossible to place new names on the list in less than one month's time. We ask our new readers not to expect their subscriptions to begin until at least a month after their remittances have been received.

ROD AMUNDSON, *Editor*

LET'S LEARN ABOUT OUR WILDLIFE

The Tenth of a Series on The Wildlife Species of North Carolina

THE BEAVER

By ROD AMUNDSON

HISTORY

THE beaver has probably had more to do with the settlement and development of America than any other single species. The westward push of civilization was greatly enhanced when white men learned that beaver pelts were of economic value and the Hudson's Bay Company established trading posts across the northern part of the country. These trading posts were soon followed by the westward movement of pioneers. For a time beaver skins were a more important medium of exchange than money.

Like so many other wildlife forms which have economic value, beavers were placed in grave danger of extinction, and in many sections of the country were completely destroyed. Such was the case in North Carolina, according to biologists and other competent observers. There are, however, beavers in North Carolina today, but they are not the native species.

Several years ago beavers were purchased from the State of Pennsylvania and released in several parts of the Tar Heel State. Prior to that time beavers had once been extinct in Pennsylvania, the game managers of that state having acquired beavers from Wisconsin. So the beavers found in North Carolina today are probably a species native to the north-central part of the country.

The species seems to have become well-established in localities where it has been transplanted, but apparently is not spreading throughout the state at a rate comparable to the vast expansion which is occurring in some midwestern and western states.

CHARACTERISTICS

Although there may be many people in North Carolina today, particularly youngsters, who have never seen a live beaver, any child can tell you that beavers are heavy bodied animals with a wide, flat tail. The average length of beavers is about 45 inches, including the tail, and the average weight somewhere near 40 pounds. Old males may weigh up to 60 pounds.

Like other fur-bearing animals which spend a great deal of time in water, the fur of beavers is composed of two coats: the long glossy guard hairs and the short, thick-set underpelage.

Photo Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Few North Carolinians have seen live beavers outside a zoo. They were once abundant, became extinct, and a few have been imported.

The legs are short and sturdy, with the hind legs being larger than the front and webbed between the toes. The forelegs are slender with well-developed toes. Thus the animal is equipped to swim with the hind legs and the broad tail, and perform delicate work with the front feet.

The beaver is one of a very few animals which can change an environment to suit himself. He loves water, but prefers to have his watery surroundings remain at a constant level. Hence the beaver dam.

Although beavers are given credit for being industrious and skillful as engineers, their intelligence, industry, and engineering know-how have

been over-exaggerated. This is only to be expected, however, of an animal which has captured the imagination of writers and naturalists for so many centuries.

Beavers do construct dams with marvelous skill. Their heavy, chizel-like teeth are well adapted to cutting wood, and their front legs are skillful at manipulating dam-building materials. Many believe that beavers can fell a tree in any direction they desire. This is not entirely true, as is attested by the fact that beavers have been found crushed to death under trees they were cutting. Other cut trees have been found leaning against the branches of uncut trees—abandoned.

The expression "busy as a beaver" implies a great amount of industry and diligence. Despite this, and despite their work in building dams and securing food, beavers spend considerable time simply loafing around.

FOOD HABITS

Beavers feed almost entirely on the bark, leaves, and twigs of trees. Bark, however, is by far the principle item of food, and few logs and poles go into the structure of the dam without first having the bark eaten away. An interesting sidelight on

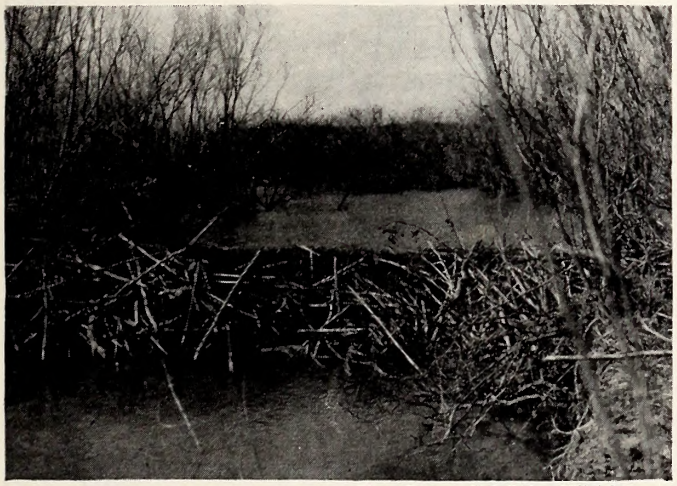


Photo Courtesy U.S. Fish & Wildl.fe Service

Beavers are clever engineers. Their dams maintain constant water levels in ponds. Damage to dams is quickly repaired.

the food habits of beavers is a phenomenon which occurs in climates where heavy ice forms on the beaver pond.

During the late summer and fall months, beavers cut down trees, cut the branches into segments, and fasten them to the bottom of the pond by partially covering them with mud. Then, in the cold winter months, the clever animals have only to leave their lodge through an opening under the ice, swim to the bottom for a choice cutting, and bring it into the lodge to eat—all without having to expose themselves to cold weather and possible predators.

The lodges are elaborate affairs, and may be of remarkable size. They are composed of logs, branches, twigs, brush, leaves, grass, and other materials, and enough mud to make the structure weather-proof. The house is built up from the bottom with mud, sticks and stones, and is at first a solid mass from top to bottom. Once a heap from four to six feet high is extended above the water, the beavers cut two tunnels into the pile and then hollow out a chamber large enough to accommodate the animals living in it and to accommodate food which will be brought in later. The outside is plastered with mud, but a spot at the top is left unsealed to permit ventilation.

BREEDING HABITS

Beavers are monogamous and mate for life. Mating occurs in January or February, and the young, called "kits", are born in April or May. The rearing of the family is strictly the problem of the female parent. When the young are born the male skips out and may wander about visiting other beaver colonies or lodges, or may set up solitary housekeeping in a den he digs in the bank of the pond. He does not join his mate until autumn when the young are nearly grown. The family usually remains together until the young, in their second summer, have been replaced by a new litter and go out on their own. They may come back to the colony with a mate or go out to set up a new

W.R.C. Staff Photo

Beavers cannot fell trees in the exact direction they desire. This tree in Richmond County lodged on surrounding trees, and the beavers' efforts were wasted.

W.R.C. Staff Photo

A beaver lodge in Richmond County.

colony of their own. Litters range from two to eight kits, but four is the usual number.

ENEMIES

Beavers are subject to predation by the larger predators such as bobcats and eagles. Kits may be taken by foxes or mink, but a watery habitat and secure lodges lend a great deal of safety. There are a few internal and external parasites, but healthy, well-fed animals are rarely dangerously afflicted. Other than mankind, drouth is the beaver's worst enemy. Extended periods of drouth may dry streams so that colonies of beavers either have to seek new quarters or perish. Floods take a toll, but usually the worst effect of floods is damage to dams and lodges. Were beavers allowed to dam a stream at intervals to its source, there would be few if any floods.

MANAGEMENT

Beaver management in North Carolina begins with a question as to whether the species should be allowed to extend its range and become numerous. Beavers compete with man by cutting vast numbers of trees, some of which may be valuable timber. Their dams may flood agricultural land. Even so, the animals can more than repay for any losses with their valuable pelts. Properly harvested, a colony of beavers and a farm stream can be an important annual source of income. At the same time, proper harvesting will keep the beavers from becoming too numerous.

Because of the value of their furs, beavers in many states have been trapped illegally, and interstate traffic of beaver pelts has caused much concern for law enforcement agencies.

The following incident happened in a western state, but it points out the value of beaver management. A farmer wrote to the game department of his state and complained that beavers had dammed his stream and flooded part of his cornfield. He wanted a permit to kill the beavers. A game technician called on the farmer to investigate the situation. He found that a half acre of corn had been flooded, and that the farmer estimated a further potential loss of about 20 bushels of corn from beaver raids into the field. The field yielded an average of 30 bushels per year, making a potential loss of 35 bushels worth about $35.00. The technician took a census of the beavers and found that four could be trapped when the pelts were prime. At that time average pelts were bringing over $25.00. It did not take the farmer long to realize the valuable animals, and it is safe to say that he is probably setting considerable cornfield space aside for the beavers to encourage their multiplication.

"JOE BEAVER" **By Ed Nofziger**

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"One of our dams would have done the job if they hadn't destroyed the plant cover above here."

Muskrats, the country's most important fur bearer, will be discussed next month. Tar Heel trappers derive a large income from muskrat pelts.

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE

RESOURCE-O-GRAM

A ROUNDUP OF THE LATEST WILDLIFE NEWS

AT PRESS TIME A DISEASE WHICH HAD BEEN TAKING THE LIVES OF DEER IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE WAS STILL NOT POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED, BUT DEFINITELY INDICATED NOT TO BE ANTHRAX. BLOOD FROM AN INFECTED DEER INJECTED INTO A GOAT FAILED TO HAVE ANY VISIBLE EFFECT ON THE GOAT. THE 1949 DEER HUNTING SEASON OPENED ON SCHEDULE WITH A WARNING TO DEER HUNTERS TO EXERCISE CAUTION IN DRESSING DEER TO AVOID GETTING DEER BLOOD INTO CUTS OR SKIN ABRASIONS.

CORRECTION

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCE-O-GRAM THE DATE FOR THE OPENING OF THE SEASON ON DUCKS WAS ERRONEOUSLY LISTED AS NOVEMBER 20. THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOVEMBER 29. THE SEASON OPENS ON NOVEMBER 29.

MISS MARGARETE FISLER, RALEIGH, HAS BEEN ENGAGED AS A JUNIOR PUBLICITY SPECIALIST FOR THE EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION. MISS FISLER IS AN EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHER AND HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF WESTERN CAROLINA TEACHERS COLLEGE AND HAS HAD SPECIAL TRAINING IN PHOTOGRAPHY AT YALE UNIVERSITY. A NATIVE OF IVANHOE, NORTH CAROLINA, SHE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED IN RALEIGH BY BALLANCE STUDIOS AND COVERED NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE RALEIGH TIMES.

SALES OF HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTALED OVER $100,000.00 IN EXCESS OF A CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR. THIS IS A RESULT OF MORE EFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GROWING PUBLIC SUPPORT BEHIND NORTH CAROLINA'S FISH AND GAME PROGRAM. THE 1949-1950 HUNTING SEASON WILL SEE MORE HUNTERS AFIELD THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE. A GREATER DEMAND FOR GAME MAKES SOUND GAME MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR 40,000 "HUNTING BY PERMISSION ONLY" POSTERS WILL HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO FARMERS WHO ARE WILLING TO ALLOW HUNTING ON THEIR LAND BUT WHO WISH TO KNOW THE IDENTITY OF HUNTERS GOING ON THEIR LAND.

FROM NOW ON, FOUR ROANOKE RAPIDS HUNTERS WILL PROBABLY ASK PERMISSION BEFORE GOING ON THE LAND OF ANOTHER TO HUNT. WILL NORFLEET IN BERTIE COUNTY POSTED HIS LAND WITH "HUNTING BY PERMISSION ONLY" SIGNS, BUT THE SIGNS WERE IGNORED BY THE HUNTERS. NORFLEET CALLED A LOCAL CONSTABLE WHO TOOK THE MEN TO COURT. THEY PAID A TOTAL OF $134.00 IN FINES AND COSTS FOR TRESPASSING. ONE OF THE MEN WAS HUNTING WITHOUT A LICENSE. NORFLEET MIGHT HAVE GRANTED PERMISSION TO THESE MEN, HAD THEY ASKED FOR IT.

THE FISH POPULATION of HIGH POINT LAKE

By EDWARD E. HUESKE
Former Fish Biologist, N. C. Wildlife Commission

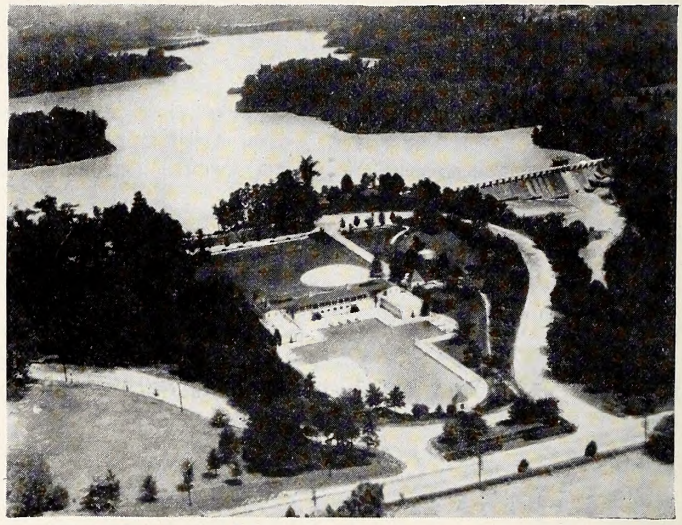
THE High Point Municipal Lake, in Guilford County, is one of the best known fishing spots in this section of the Piedmont in North Carolina. This artificial lake, completed in 1932, has a surface area of 341 acres and a shoreline of 15.87 miles. The comparatively long shoreline is conducive to good lake productivity. The maximum depth of the lake is 25 feet.

The popularity of High Point Municipal Lake is borne out by the fact that during the first five months of this year 6777 anglers fished there. In addition to a desirable fish population, a very convenient system of handling boats makes the lake very attractive to fishermen. The boat service, operated by the Department of Recreation of High Point, provides a unique towing arrangement by which the boats are towed to any desired location on the lake and later towed to the dock after a day or half-day of fishing. The Department of Recreation and Parks enforces regulations concerning the lake which give the fishermen every possible consideration. These regulations include permitting only fishermen to use the lake and prohibits the use of speed boats and large outboard motors.

In order that a record be made of the fishing, the Department of Recreation and Parks has taken a creel census annually which includes the species, numbers, and weights of fish caught. This is very desirable, as a creel census is not only valuable to a biologist in determining the status of the fish population, but it provides information of interest to every fisherman. It tells the experienced fisherman when the fishing was best and gives the amateur a good indication of the best time to go fishing. It is believed that the creel census figures in this case represent a very high percentage of the actual catch, probably as much as 80%.

The creel census (Figure 1) for the years of 1947, 1948, and 1949 shows several interesting fluctuations regarding the period of greatest catch of fish. In the first place, the greatest catches of the three species considered occurred at varying months during 1947, 1948, and 1949; secondly, there was no definite succession of periods of greatest catch for the three species; and thirdly, as the annual catch of bass increased, the annual catch of crappie and bluegill decreased.

Since the water temperature has a direct effect on the feeding habits of fish, a difference in water temperature would account, in the most part, for the variation in the peak months when most fish were caught. In other words, an "early spring" usually means early catches of fish. In addition to water temperature other factors such as available food and weather conditions would certainly enter into the picture.



High Point city lake and recreation area from the air.

The total numbers and weights of various species of fish may fluctuate within one or several years. It is interesting to note (Figure 1) that during each of the three years, there was a direct relationship between the weights of bass caught and that of the bluegills and crappie. More bass meant fewer bluegills and crappie, or vice versa. This is quite similar to the results shown by a creel census of the same species of fish taken in the City Lake of Concord, N. C., during approximately 13 years of fishing. The best bass fishing at High Point Municipal Lake during 1947, 1948, and 1949 occurred during May of 1949 when 94 bass were caught having an average weight of 3.57 lbs.

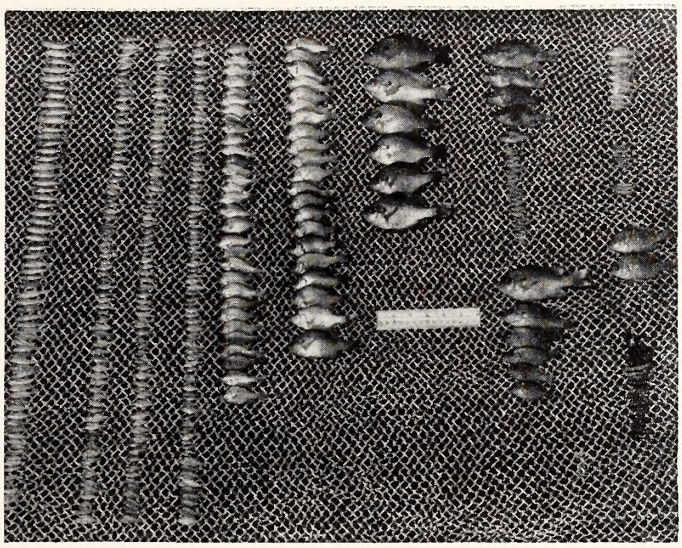
During the summer of 1948 the High Point Department of Parks and Recreation requested that a fish population survey be made of the High Point Municipal Lake. In response to this request the survey was scheduled as part of the summer fish population studies conducted by the Wildlife Resources Commission and was completed during the

week of July 12, 1948. The fish survey was made to determine the fish species present, their relative abundance, their rate of growth, the ratio of game and non-game fish, and the success of reproduction. This information, along with the creel census data, was then available as a basis for recommending fish management measures for the lake. To obtain this information several samples using chemicals were taken at five points along the shoreline and also gill and trammel nets were set in both deep and shallow water. The chemical samples were taken along the shoreline to determine the success of fish reproduction and the nets were primarily set to secure information concerning the coarse fish population. Fish scales were taken for growth studies on largemouth bass, bluegills, and crappie. These scales were collected by the High Point Parks and Recreation Department from fish actually caught by fishermen.

The survey showed that the following species of fish were present and occur in the following order of abundance:

1. Bluegill
2. Black crappie
3. Largemouth bass
4. Yellow bullhead
5. Warmouth
6. Redbreast
7. White catfish
8. Pumpkinseed
9. Golden shiner
10. Darter
11. Carp

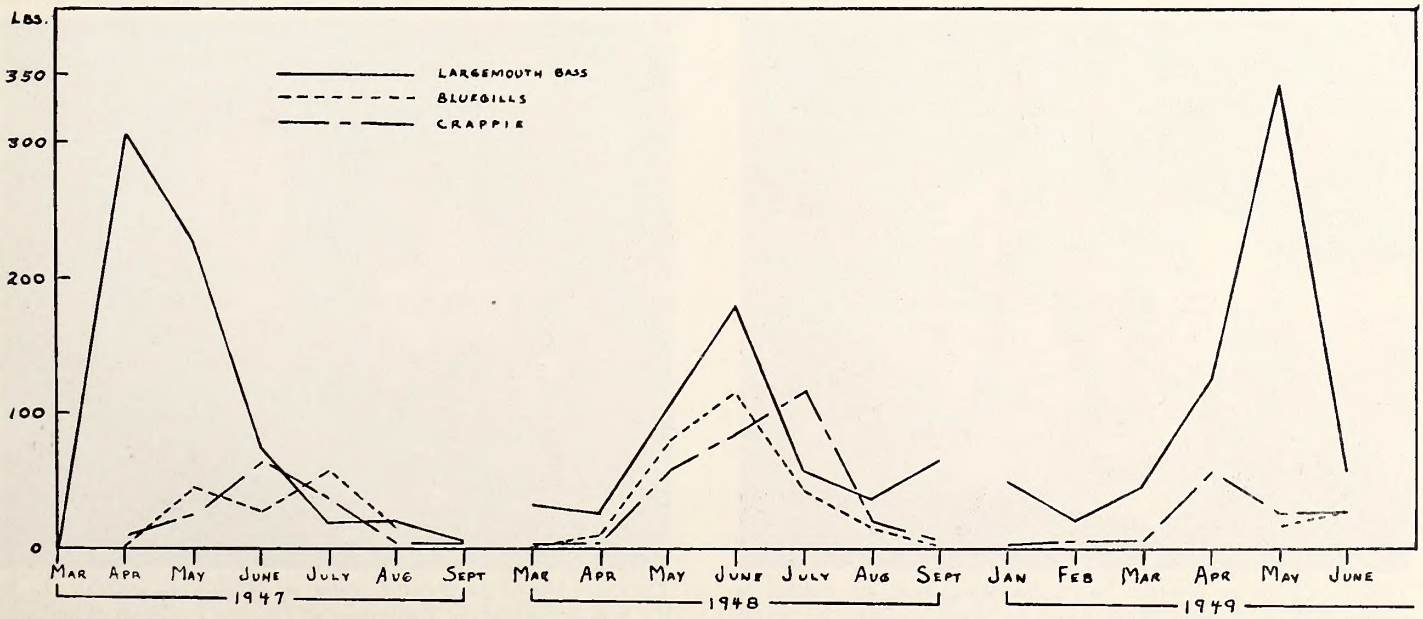
The population consists mostly of game species, the coarse fish being present in comparatively small numbers, which is a very desirable situation. A total of 356 small fish, which hatched during the 1948 season, were collected from approximately 50 yards of shoreline. Of this group, 67% were bluegills and 18% largemouth bass. Approximately one young bass was found for every yard of shoreline sampled. This indicates a very fine hatch for the



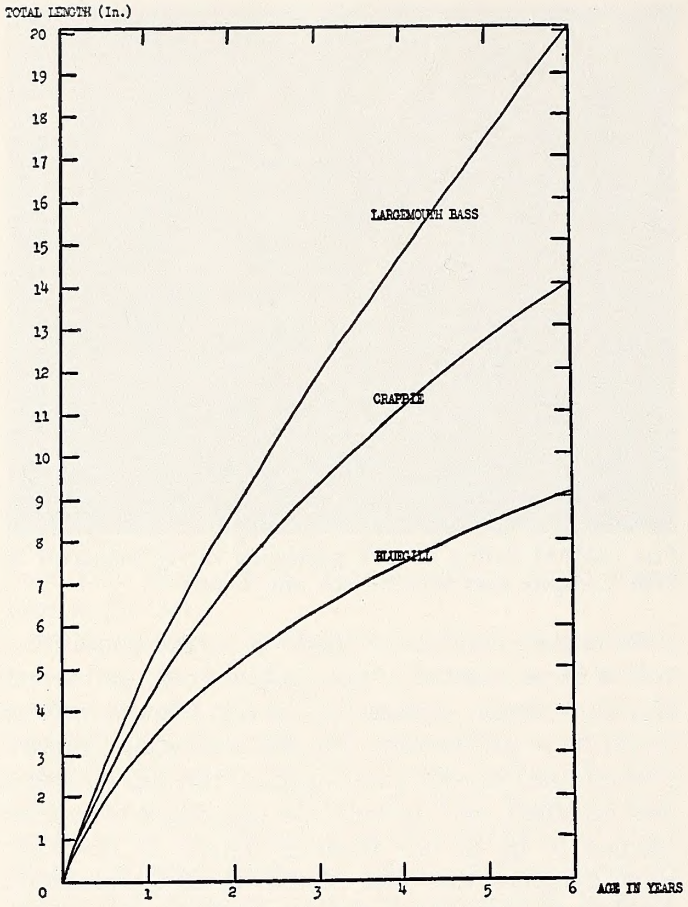
Fish collected during the fish population survey conducted in 1948. Compare sizes with six-inch rule. Figure 2.

1948 season. Obviously, stocking a lake containing such a large number of young fish would be useless and unnecessary. Generally, the fish population was found to be satisfactory. The fish collection (Figure 2) contained mostly game species, the reproduction was excellent, and the relative abundance of species seemed to be in fair balance. There is, however, some evidence this year of the bluegill population tending to become excessively large.

The purpose of the growth study was to determine growth rates of average sized fish rather than extremes, because average-sized fish usually occur more frequently in a day's catch. Scale examinations (Figure 3) show that the growth rate of the largemouth bass, bluegills, and crappie is consistent and at a satisfactory rate. It is especially desirable for growth rate to be consistent.



The weight of largemouth bass, bluegills, and crappie caught each month during the 1947, 1948, and 1949 (January 1 - June 1) seasons. Figures at left indicate total pounds caught. Figure 1.



The growth rate of largemouth bass, bluegills, and crappie in High Point Municipal Lake. Figure 3.

Finally, the question arises: what, if anything, should be done to improve the fishing in the High Point Municipal Lake. The answer to this is simply more fishing. With the dominance of desirable game species, particularly largemouth bass and bluegills, a comparatively small coarse fish population, and excellent game fish reproduction, the only improvement to be made would be to increase the average size and weight of the fish taken. This can be accomplished if enough fish are removed so that the food supply of the lake will be available to a smaller number of fish. This in turn would increase the average weight of the fish. Increasing the fertility of the lake would be difficult, since it serves as a city water supply.

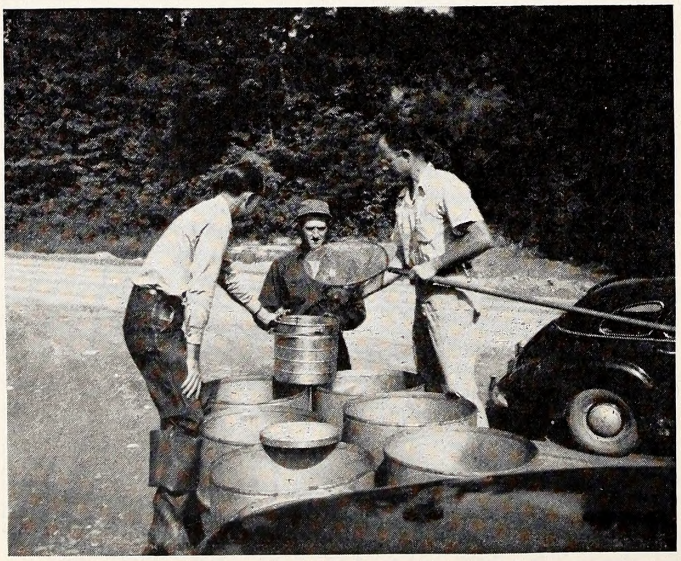
According to a creel census (Figure 4) less than 4 pounds of fish are taken from each surface acre of water annually. Obviously, several times this weight could be taken and yet the fish population would be only partly harvested. Although it seems a rather odd management tool, in many lakes the removal of large numbers and weights of fish means better fishing for the future years.

Figure 4.—The annual harvest of fish from High Point Municipal Lake during 1947, 1948, and 1949.**

Year	Total number of fish caught	Total weight* of fish caught	Average number of fish per surface acre	Average weight of fish per surface acre
1947	2449	1138.50	7.2	3.34
1948	3649	1236.25	10.7	3.63
1949**	1303	915.50	3.8	2.70

*Weight given in pounds

**January 1 - June 1, 1949



Trout stocking in Western North Carolina. Fish are hauled to stream site in barrels. This must be done quickly in warm weather or fish will die from lack of oxygen.

They are placed in suitable water as quickly as possible. L. to R.: Walter Edmiston, Supervisor of District 7; Gwyn Woodruff, Supt. Marmon Hatchery; Joel Bentley, Watauga County District Protector.

Outdoor Notes

By JOE AUSTELL SMALL

Vegetarian Dog

If Neddo was a human, she'd be 140 years old! But Neddo is a dog. She's 20 years old and that's equivalent to 140 in human life.

How? Mr. Edwin H. Schmidt of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, owner, credits the dog's longevity to a diet of vegetables. She eats tomatoes, red beets, onions, raw or cooked potatoes, carrots, cabbage and eggplant. Her favorite dishes are cauliflower and celery.

Three years ago, Neddo gave birth to a litter of four.

Reds Cropping Up

You can't ever tell where a Red will creep up these days. A Soviet whaling expedition carried back to Russia a family of red-headed penguins from Antarctica recently. They'll probably be used for propaganda purposes in the cold countries.

Flashy

For a long time fishermen who have used them know that red minnows attract more bass than natural-colored ones. But getting hold of red minnows has been the trouble.

Well, chum, lean your good ear to the wind and listen to this. Take along a bottle of mercurochrome and a little brush. Put your minnow on the hook, then give it that bewitching look with the paint brush. It works.

What, No Cheesecake?

Dr. S. W. Bromley, entomologist, says that some insects signal, or talk, with one another on supersonic wave lengths. He placed a giant silkworm moth in an odor-proof glass cage. Soon she had male moths rushing to her window.

"She signals them by some supersonic squealing," he explained. Just like a worm.

"Just the Cream, Bud!"

A pet crow in Hartford, Wisconsin, can talk a little, but that's not the extent of his brilliance by far. The bird pulls off caps from bottled milk and drinks all the cream. He doesn't care for just the plain milk.

The milkman tried hiding his deliveries, but that did no good. Old crow was right on the job. He finally had to cover the bottles with a heavy box.

Rod Crips

Don't let your fishing rod get in a state of degradation like most fishermen. The dirt and discoloration of a cork rod grip can be removed with acetone. Apply with small sponge and wipe off with cloth. Keep it up until clean. It shore helps the looks, and feel, of a rod.

Gun Situation

Believe it or no, it's still hard to get the gun you want in many parts of the country. I know—I get letters all the time asking where such and such a gun can be gotten. The situation as a whole is gradually improving, however, and it shouldn't be long before you can get any gun you want at most any place. The cost, however, won't go down much if any within the next twelve months. High cost of steel and labor are the cause for this, the gun companies say.

And I nearly always spend my pool-room allowance on postage sending sportsmen names and addresses of gun companies. If you also have the urge to let your eyes caress the trim lines of new models (guns), Ithaca has out a beautiful new catalog full of information, shooting tips, and all dope on their guns they'll send for 10 cents. Address is Ithaca Gun Company, Inc., Box 6, Ithaca, New York.

They Gotta Have That Wiggle!

It's plum important to keep those worms alive and wiggling—and that's hard to do during this hot weather. Just get you a hunk of florist's moss and dampen it. Don't get it wet. Pack it in a clay flower pot. When carrying your worms for a long haul, wrap the pot in damp burlap and evaporation will keep them cool and in hep shape.

Gad, What a Mistake!

Last deer season, a fellow in Wisconsin hit the dirt when a high-powered slug whined over his head. He lay tight until a red-coated female rushed up and asked breathlessly if he was hurt.

"Really, I'm awfully sorry," she admitted. "I thought you were my husband!"

Wildlife Conference Heads West in '50

For the first time in the history of the North American Wildlife Conferences, one of these meetings will be held next year on the Pacific coast, the Wildlife Management Institute announced today.

The 15th North American Wildlife Conference will meet in the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, March 6, 7, and 8, 1950. This will be the first time that one of the Conferences has been held west of Denver, Colorado. This year's meeting in Washington, D. C. attracted a registered attendance of 1146 game administrators, wildlife technicians, fishery experts, soil and water conservationists, and sportsmen. Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and every state except Nevada were represented on the registration list.

THE HERITA

The days when fish
of human sustenance

The poetry of poin
of congenial compani
ing covey, the splash
smell of wood smok
campfire—these are

We may use and e
must guard it so th
future generations, s
that we have used it

E WE GUARD

nd game were a source
e gone forever.

g dogs, the fellowship
s, the thrill of a burst-
f a leaping trout, the
nd fish frying over a
wildlife heritage.

y this heritage, yet we
we may pass it on to
fied in the knowledge
isely.

—Editor

W.R.C. Staff Photos

TURN IN YOUR DUCK AND GOOSE BANDS!

By WILLIAM HAMNETT
Project Leader, Wildlife Resources Survey

IF you hunt migratory game birds this fall, you may be one of the lucky people who kill a duck or a goose or a dove which has an aluminum band around one of its legs. Your bird will be one of relatively few which has at some time or other been captured and banded by a biologist who is helping to learn more about the flight habits of birds.

There is an amusing anecdote about an Iowa farmer who shot a crow and found a band on one of its legs. He looked at the band and found a long serial number and some letters which included the cryptic message: "Biol Surv," an abbreviation of the name of the U. S. Biological Survey. In reporting the incident to a local game protector, he is reputed to have said, "I b'iled that durn bird for two hull hours, and served it for supper. But nobody et any of it. It didn't taste worth a dang!"

Since the beginning of time man has marvelled at the flight and seasonal movements of birds. Past centuries of superstitions, legends and stories have contributed much to the romance of bird study, but today steady progress is being made toward a definite understanding of bird habits and behavior. One phase of bird behavior that is being understood better is the obvious movement by many birds from one territory to another. The distances travelled are extreme; from several hundred miles to well over twenty thousand. In order to make records and studies of these movements, birds are trapped, banded, and then released.

Bird banding in America dates from the time of Audubon, who, in about 1803, used silver wire to mark a brood of phoebes. He was rewarded in his efforts the following season when two of his marked birds returned to nest in the same vicinity. Today, under the direction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and cooperating state wildlife agencies, birds are obtained for banding mainly through the operation of approved traps. At the end of 1945 nearly 5,000,000 birds had been banded under permit in the United States and Canada by cooperators of the Service, and from these more than 300,000 usable return records had been reported.

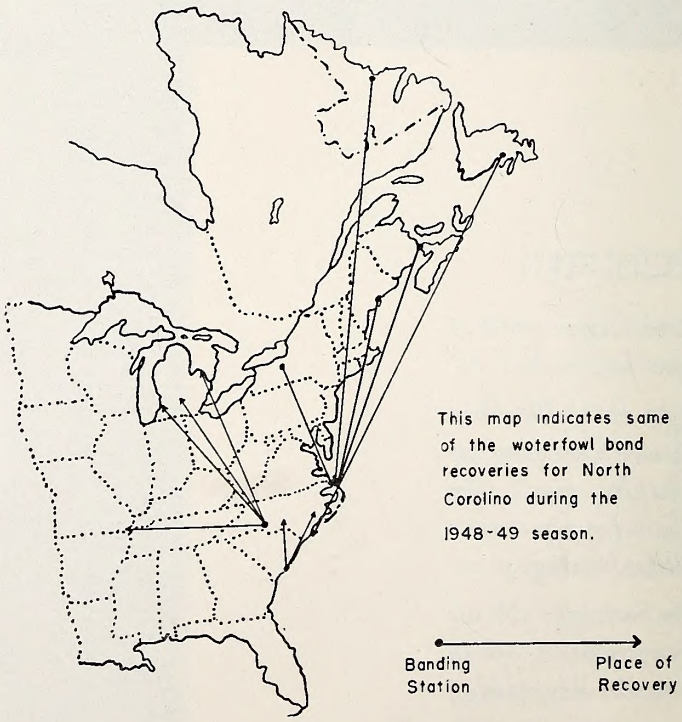
By virtue of a recent decision of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state workers are now advised of banded waterfowl that have been banded elsewhere but killed in and reported from their state, as well as waterfowl banded in North Carolina but killed and reported elsewhere.

It is with an eye toward the anticipated success of the waterfowl hunters during the coming season in North Carolina that this article is written. We are asking you in particular, as well as other hunters who might kill a banded bird, to send in the band to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. You will be notified by that agency as to where and when the bird was banded, and perhaps you may have sent in a reward band. To stimulate band returns, each year a few bands are set aside as a reward band with a cash prize given to whoever returns it. One such band was returned from North Carolina last year, and the finder received a prize.

The following chart is a record of returned bands for 1948-49 waterfowl season of interest to North Carolina.

The most revealing fact about the chart is that it indicates to the reader that much of our waterfowl shooting depends upon the management practices carried out in behalf of the waterfowl species in the northern states and Canada. We in turn help them in their practices by staying within the bounds of regulations established for shooting waterfowl here in North Carolina as well as affording these birds ample protection through refuges to assure that many may return to the north for breeding and nesting purposes.

Waterfowl Band Reports for N. C.



The above map shows distance covered by some of the waterfowl killed or banded in North Carolina.

A few of the highlights of the chart are: One goose carried its band for over 9 years. A lesser scaup carried its band only 12 days. The greatest airline distance travelled was by a pintail duck which travelled 1,500 miles airline.

Canada geese killed along the coast were banded in New York, while those banded in North Carolina were killed in Michigan and Missouri.

Banding Station	*Date of Banding*	*Place Band Recovered*	*Date of Recovery*	*Species Waterfowl*
Montezuma Refuge, New York	10/1/48	Roanoke Rapids	12/24/48	Black Duck
	10/2/48	Pinetown	12/28/48	Mallard
	10/3/48	Mt. Holly	12/11/48	Black Duck
	11/27/48	Currituck Sound	1/5/49	Mallard
	10/19/48	Jarvisburg	12/18/48	Black Duck
	9/26/48	Aydlett	12/13/48	Black Duck
	10/19/48	Knotts Island	12/15/48	Mallard
	11/24/48	Elizabethtown	12/18/48	Mallard
	11/7/48	San Souci	12/15/48	Black Duck
Swan Island Sagadahoc Co. Maine	4/20/47	Belvedere	1/5/49	Canada Goose
	4/11/48	Roe	12/16/48	Canada Goose
	4/16/48	Waves	1/7/49	Canada Goose
	4/16/49	Atlantic	12/22/48	Canada Goose
	4/6/48	Mattamuskeet	12/10/48	Canada Goose
	4/14/48	Knotts Island	12/21/48	Canada Goose
	4/14/48	Knotts Island	12/21/48	Canada Goose
	4/22/47	Currituck Sound	12/18/48	Canada Goose
	4/10/48	Currituck Sound	12/18/48	Canada Goose
Gaddy's Pond Anson County North Carolina	1/9/47	Maple City, Mich.	10/30/48	Canada Goose
	2/19/47	Fennville, Mich.	11/1/48	Canada Goose
	1/28/46	Portageville, Mo.	11/13/48	Canada Goose
	2/19/47	Port Hope, Mich.	10/25/48	Canada Goose
Tinker Harbor Labrador, Canada	9/7/48	Currituck Sound	12/27/48	Pintail
Sackville New Brunswick, Canada	9/9/48	Roanoke Island	12/28/48	Pintail
Perch Lake Jefferson Co. New York	9/9/48	Coffey's Inlet	12/23/48	Black Duck
	8/9/48	Alligator River	12/30/48	Mallard
Oak Orchard Genessee Co., New York	10/13/48	Tabor City	1/7/49	Mallard
Magadore Reservoir, Akron, Ohio	11/15/46	Cumberland Co.	12/24/48	Mallard
Oneida Lake Oswego Co., New York	10/3/48	Lumberton	1/1/49	Wood Duck
Parker River Refuge, Newberryport, Mass.	10/14/48	Kerr	1/2/49	Black Duck
Sandbar Refuge Milton, Vermont	11/6/47	Bogue Banks	12/15/48	Black Duck
Brookgreen Gardens, Georgetown, S. C.	12/17/48	Camp Lejeune	12/28/48	Lesser Scaup
	3/18/49	Mt. Gilead (dead)	5/19/49	Lesser Scaup
Mattamuskeet Refuge New Holland	2/26/39	Abitibi County Quebec, Canada	4/..../48	Canada Goose
Grand Cordoy River, Daylis, Newfoundland	9/15/47	Masonboro Sound	12/11/48	Green-winged Teal

THE ANNUAL STATE 4-H WILDLIFE CAMP

By Beba Gray Best and Seth W. Scott

Seventy-five outstanding 4-H Club members were awarded free trips to Camp Millstone because of their active interest in wildlife. The camp was an interesting and lively event,—but let the youngsters tell the story in their own words.—Ed.

Miss Beba Gray Best, Route 1, Goldsboro

By BEBA GRAY BEST

On August 22, Franklin Phillips and I met Mr. Wade Jones in Goldsboro to set out for a full and enjoyable week at Camp Millstone. When we arrived, everything looked dull and lonesome but by night, everything was in an uproar.

Our week went along fine. Each day we had classes and field trips on trapping fur-bearing animals, fish biology, and the study of waterfowl. On our field trip, we visited a farm where they had bicolor lespedeza around the border of the field, as a cover crop for wildlife and also to keep the land from washing. We then visited a field where this lespedeza was being grown for seed to be shipped to different parts of North Carolina. Next stop was at a farm where they had several rows of Multiflora Rose set out. This rose grows to a height of six to eight feet and from six to eight feet thick. In several years, this makes an excellent fence. Only small animals such as small dogs and foxes can go through it, or rather under it. On this trip we also saw a deer. We were also taken to see the Beaver Dam. This dam was constructed within a lake.

The visit to the fish hatchery near Hoffman was also very interesting. Here we learned the correct way to construct and stock a farm fish pond. The two kinds of fish which are usually recommended for farm ponds in this area are blue bream and bass. While at the hatchery, we visited the different ¾ acre ponds which were used for raising hatching stock and mature fish for hatching eggs. One particular ¾ acre pond that caught the eye of everyone was the one in which about 150 bass were being raised. Here everyone wished for a fishing pole.

We then had a class on the water fowls. We studied the difference in the two kinds of water fowls and also their routine of life. We studied the migratory process which they follow each year, as well as the ways in which the two types of water fowls take off. Some paddle off and others just rise up off the water and start flying.

The next class was on trapping fur-bearing animals. We were shown different types of traps and how to set them to catch different animals. We also learned the time of year in which you can trap different animals for their hides and when these hides are prime. It is very important that the animals be trapped when they are prime, because this is when the hides bring the best price.

At nights we were shown movies which were on the different birds of North Carolina and the United States. After the movies we danced, held our vesper program, and last of all, taps were sung.

The last full day of camp was spent in classes on making and keeping records, swimming, forestry, and rifle marksmanship.

On Friday morning everyone left with a memory they will never forget. We as 4-H members will always remember the wonderful week spent at Camp Millstone at the Wildlife Convention.

By SETH W. SCOTT

August 22-26 was a great week for 75 4-H Club members from the State of North Carolina. The annual 4-H Club wildlife conservation camp was conducted at Camp Millstone Rock near Rockingham, N. C., with enthused boys and girls attending the camp with a thought in mind—to help preserve the wildlife of our great country.

Honored by having the best 4-H wildlife project in their county, each member attending was awarded the free expense paid trip to the conference.

Camp Millstone is located in beautiful Richmond County, where the swaying of the trees, chirping of the birds and soft sounds of the waterfalls can be heard throughout the day. All these signs of nature and wildlife added to the scenic beauty during the week.

The first day of the conference was met by boys and girls "ready for action." Each day tours, demonstrations, lectures, and classes were conducted on various phases of wildlife—identification of trees, shrubs, vines, birds and insects; the setting of traps for fur-bearing animals, identification of wild ducks and fish and the keeping of records on wildlife. Speakers during the week included: Dr. Fred S. Barkalow, Jr., E. E. Hueske, Stuart Critcher, Kenneth Wilson, Ted Mitchell, Rod Amundson, Bill Hamnett, and Clyde P. Patton, employees of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission. Movies and slides also added to the educational phase of the program.

Wholesome and healthy fun and recreation was a feature of the all-round program. Square dances, games, swimming, horseshoes and singing were a part of the week. Also, eating could not be left out for healthy 4-H members. And, of course, the food was just like the kind that Mom cooks.

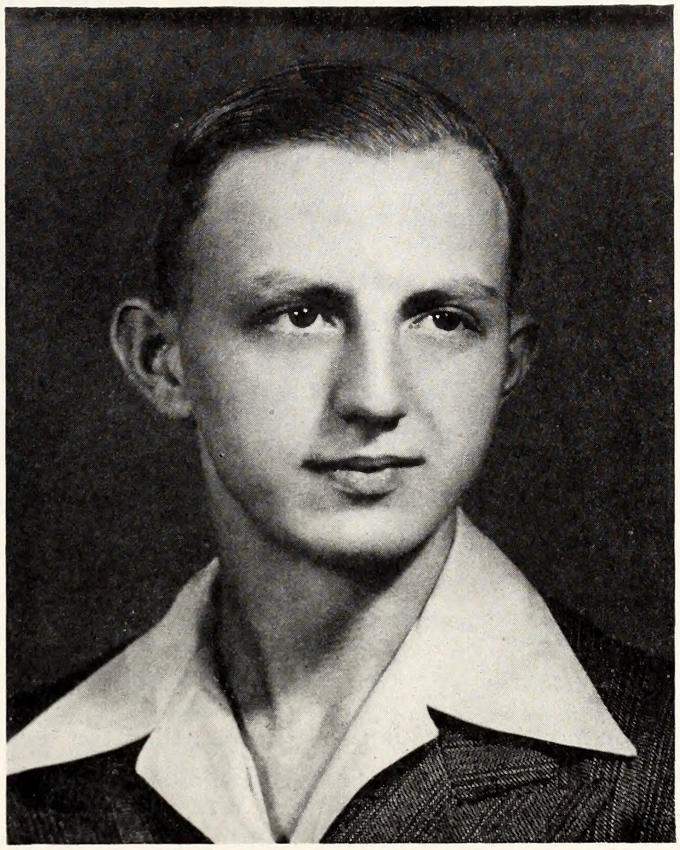
The demonstrations of friendliness and sportsmanship expressed during the week were typical of an all-round 4-H'er.

The efficient camp staff was composed of L. R. Harrill, State 4-H Leader, Miss Mary Sue Moser and Jesse James, assistant state leaders. These leaders worked diligently with the members to make the conference a huge success.

Vesper programs and taps ended each day as 4-H members retired with a better knowledge of our great friends—wildlife.

All good things come to an end sometime, as did the wildlife conference. I heard one girl say, "It will be nice to get back home and see the folks again, but how I wish I could stay on and on with such nice 4-H club members." But the boys and girls left the conference with a keener knowledge of wildlife with intentions to put into practice the things they learned.

How wonderful it is to be a member of the 4-H Club!



Seth W. Scott, Elizabeth City.

Field and administrational personnel of the Wildlife Resources Commission cooperated with State 4-H personnel to make this year's annual 4-H Wildlife Camp one of the most successful in years.

Mr. William L. Hamnett, project leader of the state-wide wildlife resources inventory will transfer to the Commission's Education Division and will work closely with 4-H, Future Farmers, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups interested in wildlife conservation.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!! HOW ABOUT IT??

IS IT TRUE?? HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO —

GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST!

EDITORIAL COMMENT, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ANECDOTES

CONDUCTED BY WIN DONAT

(who gets a few things off his own)

For months now, you folks have called the turn on this page—we appreciate your support and ask you to continue in your interest. Write us often and ask us anything. While the hunting fever is at its height, the janitor of this page would like to ask just one question: WHAT SORT OF SPORTSMEN HAVE WE MADE UP OUR MINDS TO BE THIS SEASON? It may seem a peculiar question to many but I'm sure most readers know what it means. It is my firm belief that there are a very few game law violators who act in complete ignorance—the majority of violations are committed by those who know better but feel that they can get by with it because the game protector will be in another part of the county. In other words, they just can't be trusted on their own—and yet these folks would consider this statement grounds for a duel if it had been made regarding the way they paid their bills, fulfilled their church obligations or executed their family responsibilities! Yes, I repeat, *how we are going to act in the field this season has already been settled in our own minds.* We can see our freezers and refrigerators full of meat—enough to gorge on for months, AND SOME OF US DO NOT CARE HOW WE GET IT because, we know that ninety per cent of the time we won't be watched and the chances of getting caught if we cheat are mighty slim.

That same sort of selfish belief is held by those who hunted squirrels last September. They take a warped personal pride and satisfaction that they outwitted the law—they will boast that the law is too stupid to catch them, but they cry like babies and bluster like tycoons when one of those "stupid" officers happens to find them red-handed. Then is when we hear the sob story, "If you arrest me and the news gets out, it will ruin me—think of my family, etc., etc., etc!" It is a sad thing when a victim of circumstances is handed a dirty deal, but it's absolutely disgusting when a game law chiseler begins to dribble about the way Fate treated him.

How about the fellow who knows today that he will kill a doe this year if the chance comes along? This kind of a thief is not thinking of fairness, rules of the game or anything other than his own greed. Of course, if you question him on it afterward, you will find that you are talking to a wildlife expert who is thoroughly acquainted with the management problems of that particular area. He'll say, "There are too many does, the herd needs thinning—there's not enough food." Also, I've actually heard this in eastern North Carolina, "Listen, mister, I raise and keep hounds so that fellows will have something to hunt with and I've got puppies running that have got to eat deer meat so as to break them in, and I'll kill anything that comes along!" and he does.

Yes, we know of the fellow who sagely argues, "The Commission allows me eighty quail this year —I've paid for my license and I know I won't hunt more than twice, therefore I'm going to take what I can get because I have it coming to me." This fellow is the type that would tee up his ball in the rough, if no one was looking.

How about the amateur lawyer who is going to kill his two geese in one day this year and have them shipped at night so that he can kill two more the next day? Sure the law says that game may be shipped, but that is a service to the real sportsman not a loophole for a game hog. What about the night hunter? Many men have been lynched for less serious crimes, yet there are areas in our state where this sort of thing is accepted and these butchers are respected, if one could call it that, on a par with the bootlegger.

Sportsmen and citizens, this is your game and your problem. What can we do to bring the size and importance of the problem to you in such a way as to compel you to act? Must we lose our existing stocks of native game so that neither name nor remembrance shall remain of the birds, animals, and fish which now afford us the priceless heritage of our days afield? Risking the fate of a prophet, I say that such a calamity is possible and for some species it is much nearer than you think. *Are we capable of solving the problem* of thievery by the few from the legitimate lawabiding sportsmen? Do we believe that fair laws, well administered and obeyed, will produce an increase of game all over the state together with an equal opportunity for all to participate in its harvest?

The answers to these and all other questions lie in the hearts of every man, woman, and child who goes afield or on the waters of North Carolina to hunt or fish. Surely no one can feel comfortable living with himself or mixing with decent people, knowing that all his arguments and distorted reasonings are nothing but a sham. Only a change of fundamental concept can help. We must come to believe in hunting and fishing as a privilege which we share with others—it is not a right granted exclusively to any one group or class, nor is it a race for the most meat and the devil take the hindmost.

Let us not be guilty of that laziness which causes us to say that solving the problem of behavior in the field is the function of a state agency. Certainly nothing is more untrue. We as individuals are "our brother's keepers" and we had better face the fact squarely if we are going to have a real conservation program in North Carolina and not a mockery. Let us examine our prosecution reports for many months of the year. They show the costs of court exceeding the fines, fines are not imposed or are suspended and costs only are levied, this last is contrary to the state law imposing a minimum fine for all game law violations where the fine is not otherwise prescribed. These things are indications of a tremendous job still to be done. Unless we acknowledge our individual responsibility and get to work, we most certainly will lose all we have gained, as well as the finest opportunity for a sound game program that this state has ever had. Remember, if we fail now to do the job, there is no kind-hearted charity that will do it for us. Let's play ball and play according to the rules!

From Mr. T. G. McC. of Washington, N. C., "I notice that the law states that it shall be unlawful to hunt game animals or birds from any floating device of any kind under power . . . can a person use a small skiff to hunt squirrels along creek banks . . . can an outboard motor be used to go to and from the hunting areas . . .?

It is unlawful to hunt upland game birds or animals from a boat of any type regardless of how it is propelled. The reason is that some hunters have released dogs in the woods at night and then drifted down stream killing coons and opossums by shining them in feed trees overhanging the banks.

From Dr. J. E. A., Jr., Sanford, N. C., "What are the facts regarding water temperature and fish biting . . . I am particularly interested in knowing how much bearing water temperature has on the feeding habits of bass, bream, and catfish as I like to fish in the winter too."

Since fish are cold-blooded creatures, it is safe to say that normal fluctuations in water temperature do not affect them physically. Bass, bream, and other omnivorous feeders do seek temperature levels in water where conditions are more to their liking! hence, when the surface water is extremely warm in summer, they may feed on the surface at times but rest in deeper water at cooler levels. In winter there is little surface food to be had and as a result, feeding is done at deeper levels. It is a fact however, that bass are more active at temperatures ranging between 60° and 75°F. This does not mean that they cannot be caught in winter, but the bait must be put where they are.

Durham, North Carolina
September 1, 1949

The Editor
Wildlife Magazine
Box 2919
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

First, I want to congratulate you on the fine magazine which you are editing, and wish you continued success with this venture.

I am attaching a newspaper clipping which I thought would be of interest to you. I am confident that most all of the Recorder's Court Judges in North Carolina could get a write up in their local papers such as this asking people to come by the Courthouse and pick up copies of the new pamphlets in order that they would be acquainted with the rules and regulations and not be subject to arrest.

I have an idea that the Court should keep the citizenship informed on all matters as much as possible in order to prevent violation of laws—instead of waiting until the laws have been violated and then have to fine them.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ A. R. Wilson

Hunters Get Warning On Game Laws

Recorder's Court Judge A. R. Wilson said today that he wants all Durham County nimrods to be familiar with the State's hunting laws so that they won't have to be appearing in his court on charges of violating the laws during the approaching hunting seasons.

In this connection, Judge Wilson said, a quantity of pamphlets containing the latest revised hunting and trapping regulations—effective from August 1 through July 31, 1950—has been secured from the Wildlife Resources Commission, and are available in the office of Recorder's Court.

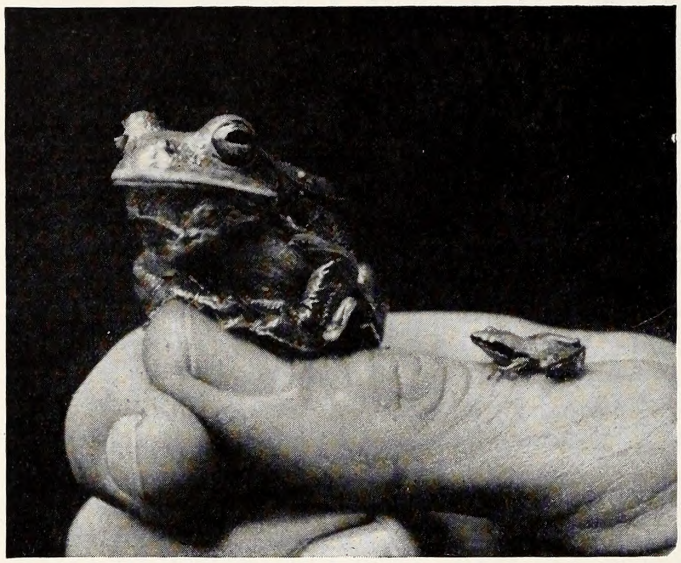
"These pamphlets will be available to our hunters as long as they last, and I hope as many as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to acquaint themselves with the newest regulations," Judge Wilson said.

DURHAM SUN
Durham, North Carolina

MIDGETS OF THE FROG WORLD

A NATURE SHORT

By JACK DERMID



The little chorus frog is dwarfed by its overgrown cousin, the Georgia tree frog, which holds the title of being the largest native tree frog.

WE sat in the car listening. An immense frog chorus arose from a Wilson County pine woods and choked out all other night sounds. At least seven species of frogs had gathered to breed in the shallow waters of the hidden borrow pit. During lulls in the din, the shrill, cricket-like notes of the little chorus frog became more audible.

We were collecting frogs for laboratory study, and *Psuedacris ocularis* was an important find. Searching the edge of the water, we quickly learned that hearing the singer and finding it were two different matters indeed. With flashlights we easily discovered common tree frogs, oak toads, and others, but not the little chorus frog.

It is little wonder that *ocularis* was difficult to find, for it is the smallest frog of the United States and can sit upon a quarter without covering Washington's head. According to Wright and Wright (1949), the adults range from two-fifths to five-eights of an inch long and are probably the smallest vertebrates in North America.

We continued our search, but still the tiny songsters evaded us. Their calls taunted us from all sides. Where? Where? Where? Then, quite by accident, we learned how to find them, and picked up about two dozen in a matter of minutes.

Our technique was simple; in fact *ocularis* gave away its own hiding place. By standing quietly with our light covering a nearby portion of bank, we could spot the males when they inflated their vocal sacs to sing. The whitish pouch, nearly half as large as the frog itself, caught and reflected our light. Before, they had apparently quit singing when we walked near them in our search.

Found in the coastal plain from North Carolina to southern Florida, the little chorus frog belongs to the tree frog family, has tiny toe disks, a slender form and pointed snout. Its color is variable, but it can be distinguished by its size and by a black stripe that passes through the eye and down the side. It is agile, too. This we saw when we failed to catch a specimen on the first try.

The half-inch frogs, colored greenish-brown, blended excellently with the background of pine needles at the water's edge. Sometimes we could look directly toward one and still not be sure we were seeing it. Except for their balloon-like vocal sacs, most of our catch of little chorus frogs would still be in Wilson County. We proved it was possible to find *ocularis* on a mat of pine needles. In a herbaceous marsh! We didn't even want to think of it.

"JOE BEAVER" **By Ed Nofziger**

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"We've got the best land in the valley—get all the topsoil and fertilizer that washes off the farms."

NATIONAL WILDLIFE NEWS

Borden Appointed Federation Executive Director:

The appointment of Richard Borden of Boston as executive director of the National Wildlife Federation was announced recently by David A. Aylward, Federation president.

Mr. Borden will have charge of all activities of that organization including business operations, the sale of wildlife conservation stamps, conservation legislative reporting, and conservation education. In his announcement of the new office, Mr. Aylward stated that expanding operations of the Federation necessitate the appointment of an over-all executive to integrate activities. Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Mr. Borden was graduated from Harvard University in 1933 as a major in biology. He is a veteran of four and one-half years of service with the U. S. Navy and was released from active duty with the rank of commander.

His interest in conservation has extended over many years. He is chairman of the conservation committee of the Boone and Crockett Club and he has achieved national recognition as a wildlife photographer.

Committee Proposes Charge For National Forest Use:

Construction and maintenance of recreational facilities on national forests should be financed through charges for their use, the House Committee on Appropriations believes.

The national forests have been open for more than 50 years to Americans without charge for camping, picnicking and other forms of recreation. There has been a minimum of restriction and the arrangement has been of particular importance to millions who cannot afford more expensive forms of recreation.

The cost of providing and maintaining the needed campgrounds and other inexpensive facilities has been very low. More than this has been saved in the form of lower fire-fighting costs, lower losses to national forest timber stands, and in safeguarding the purity of domestic water supplies by grouping people in camps with simple sanitary facilities.

There undoubtedly are special situations which justify charges for recreational use, and the Committee believes that the Forest Service should expand its present studies and tests in that connection. It feels that the free use of national forests for camping, picnicking and similar public recreation use should be continued where it is not practicable to make charges to the users. Appropriations, it believes, should be continued to provide adequate sanitation, fireproofing, and other simple facilities as required.

Fence For U. S.-Mexico Border Suggested:

To prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease into this country, a boundary line fence between Mexico and the United States is proposed by H. R. 4976 introduced by Congressman Harold A. Patten of Arizona. The bill, which was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, stipulates that the cost of this project must not exceed $3,500,000.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture have advocated the construction of this barrier for some years. They feel that it will be beneficial in preventing the spread of the dreaded disease northward. They say that at present it is possible for half-wild infected livestock to drift across the line and mingle with herds in this country.

Missouri Unit Completes Age Studies:

The old expression "in a coon's age" has taken on more exact meaning with the completion of an age-determination study by Glen C. Sanderson, a graduate student at the Missouri Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

In live male raccoons, or in cases where dissection is impractical, 90 per cent accuracy may be achieved by weight alone, Sanderson found. Those weighing 15 pounds or more may be considered adults, while those under this weight, nine times out of ten, are young. A completely accurate method consists of examination of the *osbaculum,* a peculiar bone structure in the reproductive organ of the male raccoon. If cartilage is present on this bone, the animal is young and, if absent, the specimen is an adult. The presence of cartilage near the ends of leg bones in squirrels was found by Wayne F. Colin, in a related study, to indicate a young animal. Both projects were under the guidance of Dr. W. H. Elder of the Unit Staff.

Sanderson's study showed that the percentage of young raccoons taken in Missouri has risen from 49 per cent in 1941 to 56 per cent in 1948.

Tar Heel hunters are reminded to keep records of their season's hunts on the form provided at the back of the 1949-1950 hunting extracts. Information gained from these reports will help to carry on a more effective game program in North Carolina. Findings from the reports will be published in WILDLIFE.

FOX HUNTERS

Miss Art's Finer Points (?)

By TED DEALEY

IT was pretty close to midnight when we came to the cattle guard entrance to our farm only to find our further forward progress blocked by a dog wagon.

We honked our horn several times. At length an indiscriminate sort of person laboriously disengaged himself from the driver's seat of the dog wagon and shuffled toward us through the darkness.

"What do you mean?" exclaimed my Scotch-Irish War Department, "by hunting foxes on this place? It's private property. Get your old truck out of the way."

"Why, lady," said the man aggrievedly, "we've been hunting foxes around here for a hundred years."

NO HUNTING ALLOWED

"You look like it," the war department shot back, "and so do your dogs. Get your old truck out of the way and stop boosting your dogs over our fence. We don't allow any hunting around here."

"Why, lady," said the man plaintively, "I've got 500 acres of my own over that way about three miles. You kin hunt on it any time you want—for anything you want. Possums, rabbits, squirrels, quail, anything."

"If you have 500 acres of your own," snapped the W.D., "why don't you hunt on it?"

Things were getting embarrassing. I broke in sotto voce.

"How can he hunt on his own 500 acres? The foxes don't stay there. They run anywhere they want to and the dogs follow them. Foxes and dogs can't read posted signs."

"Tell him to get his old truck out of my way. . . . Foxes don't run miles and miles. They have homes in the rocks and they run in little circles around their dens."

DIPLOMACY INDICATED

I figured the diplomatic thing to do was for me to get out of our car and have a private talk with the fox hunter.

"How many dogs did you cast off?" I asked.

"Twelve," he said.

"Good-looking pup you have in the wagon," I said.

"Thanks," he said.

"Don't let her bother you," I whispered. "But back up and let us get in."

When we were inside the house, I tried gently to explain the gentle art of fox hunting to my helpmate.

"You don't understand fox hunting," I said quietly. "I've been on fox hunts and I know how fox hunters operate."

DOGS DO THE WORK

"You've never been on but one," said the war department. "You told me about it. All fox hunters do is to sit around a fire and drink likker and let the dogs do all the work. I've been fox hunting, too. Don't you remember we went fox hunting at Vachel's place near Uvalde? And what did we do! We went out in the middle of the night and squatted on a hill. Vachel said: 'There's Marabella. There's Susie. And I said 'To hell with it. Let's go home and get breakfast.' "

"You just don't understand fox hunting," I said patiently.

"The heck I don't," said the war department. "Fox hunting is just a bunch of darned fools going into other people's private property to hunt foxes on property that the foxes would like to keep private."

"What a definition!" I said, impressed.

"It's the silliest sport I ever heard of," said the roommate. If I went on another fox hunt I'd break it up flat. I read a story in the Saturday Evening Post that said when a man gets into an argument with his wife, he's in the minority. Well, if any one of these fox hunters gets into an argument with me, he's in the minority. I'll shoot at them. . . . I won't shoot at their dogs because I like dogs. But I'll shoot at the fox hunters.

ONLY SEEKING FOOD

"They say they love their dogs. Humph! Once I spent two days getting a fox hound out of a fence. He had a collar on and I called his owner. He wouldn't even come and get him. He said 'Kill him' or 'let him die' or something like that. Tell me they love their dogs!

"All these fox hunters are out after is something to eat. They say they're after foxes. They are not. They are out after rabbits, geese, chickens—anything they can stuff into their stomachs. They turn their dogs loose to howl and while you are listening to them howl, the fox hunters go down to your lakes and gig bullfrogs and catch fish. Don't tell me. . . . I knew them."

"Fox hounds don't howl," I said. "They bay. I love to hear fox hounds on the trail at night. It puts me to sleep. You just don't understand fox hunting. . . . Haven't you ever read The Voice of Bugle Ann?"

"Yes, I have. It's marvelous. But I ain't in the mood now.

WELCOME MAT FOR FOXES

"You think I'm being funny. I'm not. I'm serious. Those brushwood guys can hunt on their own 500 acres. . . . If I had 500 acres, I'd plant something on it. Do they? No, they're too lazy, too. They just raise dogs.

"But they better keep off my place. I have four foxes living on this farm. I know where their holes are. Foxes never hurt me. They don't bother my chickens and they play with my goats. They're kind of like pets. If the foxes like me and want to stay here, I can't help it."

"You can't keep fox hounds off our place once they've started a fox," I explained. "They run anywhere they want to and the dogs follow."

"I still say they can hunt foxes on their own 500 acres. If the foxes won't stay there, that's the fox hunter's fault. . . . Why don't they treat the foxes nice? Then they would stay."

"You're talking silly," I said.

MECHANICAL FOXES?

"Talking silly, my foot," said the W.D. "If they want to hunt foxes, they can put a track down on their own 500 acres and let their dogs chase foxes around it like the greyhounds chase rabbits."

"You don't understand," I said, still patient. "Greyhounds chase rabbits by sight. Foxhounds run by scent. The rabbits the greyhounds are chasing are mechanical. You could not get a foxhound to chase a mechanical fox because the mechanical fox hasn't any odor."

"Then stink 'em up," snapped the W.D.

It was about time to go to bed at this stage of the proceedings and we did. But the conversation still went on in the darkness from one twin bed to another.

"They could hunt foxes," said the occupant of the other bed, "like they do in the tournaments in South Texas.

"What do you mean—tournaments?" I asked. "Whoever heard of a fox-hunting tournament? You have golf tournaments and other kinds of tournaments, but you don't have fox-hunting tournaments."

"They do, too," came back the voice. "I've read about them. They turn their dogs loose and let them howl. Down in South Texas."

"What place in South Texas?" I asked, getting slightly tired of it all.

"Weatherford!" said the voice triumphantly.

"Oh, good gosh," I said. "Shut up and let's go to sleep."

That's about all there is to it except that any East Texas fox hunter who thought he knew something about the pastime now knows that he overlooked some of the finer points. Leave it to a woman to develop those small details!

(Editor's Note: Ted Dealey, who handles the destinies of the Dallas (Texas) Morning News, is an ardent outdoorsman and every once in a while he will express some of his views in print or relay an experience had in some trip out into the open spaces. This time it is foxhunting that has attracted him and your editor thinks enough of it to reproduce it for your enjoyment.)

THE LIFE OF A GAME COMMISSIONER

(Reprinted from OUTDOOR NEBRASKA)

What have I ever done, I ask, that I deserve such fate
I'm just a common fellow, but now let me relate
The trials and tribulations, the cares and worldly woes
The unkind salutations, that my Commission knows.
"Say there," says one, "Go kill those birds, they're eatin' up my corn."
Another voice, "We want more birds;" Why was I ever born?
And if the fish ain't bitin', it's because there's none to bite,
Yet I know there's plenty of 'em; I can't give 'em appetite.
And if the trees are buggy, and the weather isn't good
It's cause the Game Commission isn't doin' all they could.
Says another brainy fellow, "Better set the season soon."
Jumps up another yippin', "Set it late, or it's your doom."
You'll catch it if you do it, and you'll regret it if you don't.
You're a "Bloomin' politician," if you will or if you won't.
Even for all acts of Nature, the Commission is to blame.
I don't know why I do it, but I love it just the same.
But we all keep workin' anyway, for our birds and all the fish,
'Cause down at heart, we all have got a common eager wish,
To see our State a garden spot of beauty, fish, and game,
So tho my job's a crazy-quilt I love it just the same.
Our hopes and dreams are all alike no matter what you name,
'Coarse we all are aimin' upward, our target is the same.
So get on board my fellow man, in fact, let's all go fishin',
But please, dear sir, if they don't bite, don't blame the Game Commission.

Paul T. Gilbert

STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA
3 3091 00733 1036

CARRIE L. BROUGHTON, ST. LIBRARI
STATE LIBRARY BUILDING
RALEIGH NC
C

THE GRAPHIC PRESS, INC., RALEIGH, N. C.